

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No. 10/802,941	Applicant(s) SAWATANI, SEIJI
	Examiner Ruth C. Rodriguez	Art Unit 3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to communication filed on 20 February 2007.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-6 and 11-20.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other _____.                                    |

## REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claim 11, Arisaka discloses a clip comprises an insertion member, a latch member, a hinge member, at least one engaging groove, a pair of split flanges and a retaining protruding piece. The insertion member comprises a T-shape cross-section and has a head portion and a shaft portion connected downwardly from the head portion. The latch member is V-shaped and is disposed on an outer side of the shaft portion. The hinge member connects the shaft portion and the latch member. The at least one engaging groove is formed in a side wall of the shaft portion. The shaft portion presses both side leg portions of the latch member outwardly of the latch member to expand in diameter as the head portion is pressed. Retaining pawls are provided on projectingly on both side leg portions of the latch member that are engaged with retaining stepped portions formed in a bulged manner on a lower portion of the shaft portion to hold a state in which the latch member expands in diameter. The pair of split flanges are provided to be continued from upper end portions of the both side leg portions of the latch member and are mated in a shape of a flange by surrounding the shaft portion when the both side leg portions are closed. One side of an abutting surface of the split flanges protrudes to form an L-shape in a plan view and abuts against a corresponding side portion of the shaft portion. The retaining protruding piece extends from a side portion thereof opposite to a protruding portion of the split flange and engages with a corresponding side portion of the shaft portion. The retaining protruding piece is formed

on each of both side leg portions. The protruding piece comprises a pawl portion extending from an end of the retaining protruding piece. The pawl portion engages a side portion of the shaft portion. The split flanges are mated to form a flange surrounding the shaft portion so as to hold the shaft portion when the retaining protruding piece is engaged with the shaft portion. Arisaka fails to disclose that the pawl portion engages a surface of the engaging groove. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the pawl portion engaging a surface of the engaging groove to keep the split flanges constrained as disclosed in page 12, lines 19-25.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Drawings***

The drawings were received on 26 April 2004. These drawings are approved.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Palmer et al. (US 4,312,614), Sato (US 5,028,187), Sinozaki (US 5,689,863), LeVey (US 6,045,309), Meyer (US 6,074,144 and US 6,533,515 B2),

Leverger (US 6,196,756 B1), Arisaka (US 6,511,273), Anscher et al. (US 2004/0247410 A1) and Anch (US 6,910,840 B2) are cited to show state of the art with respect to clips having some of the features being claimed by the current application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C. Rodriguez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-6640.

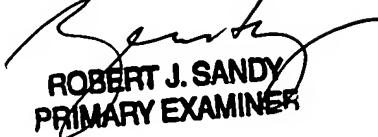
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Ruth C. Rodriguez  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3677

rcr  
March 2, 2007

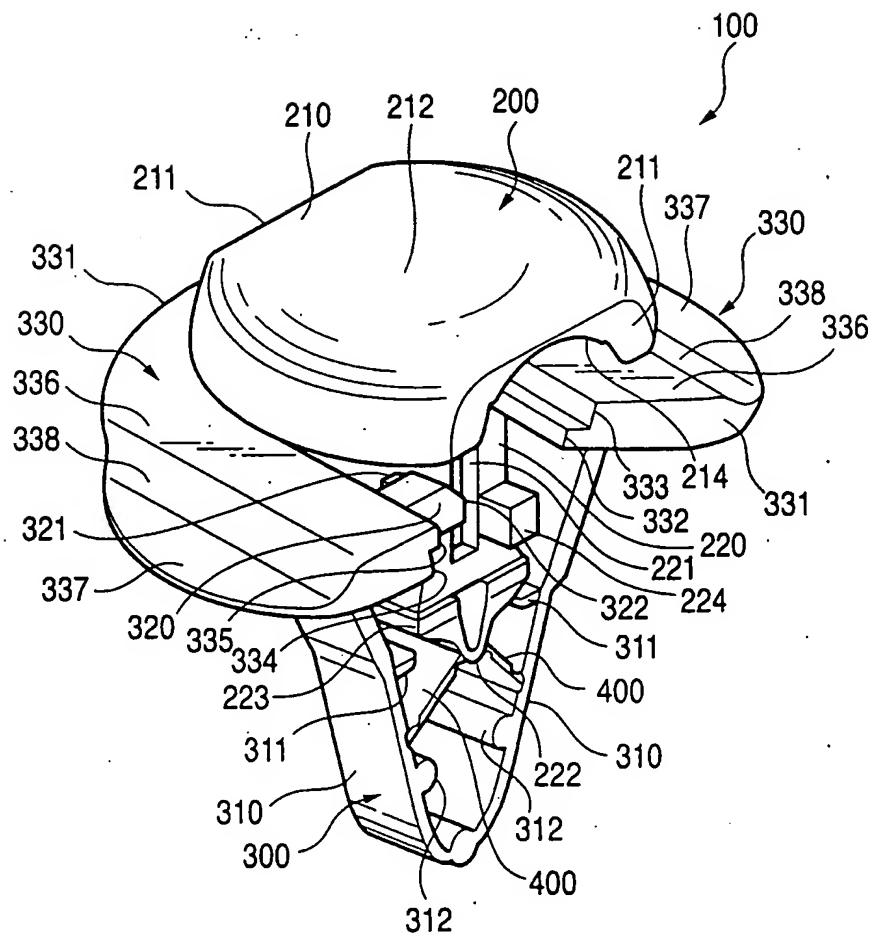
  
ROBERT J. SANDY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER



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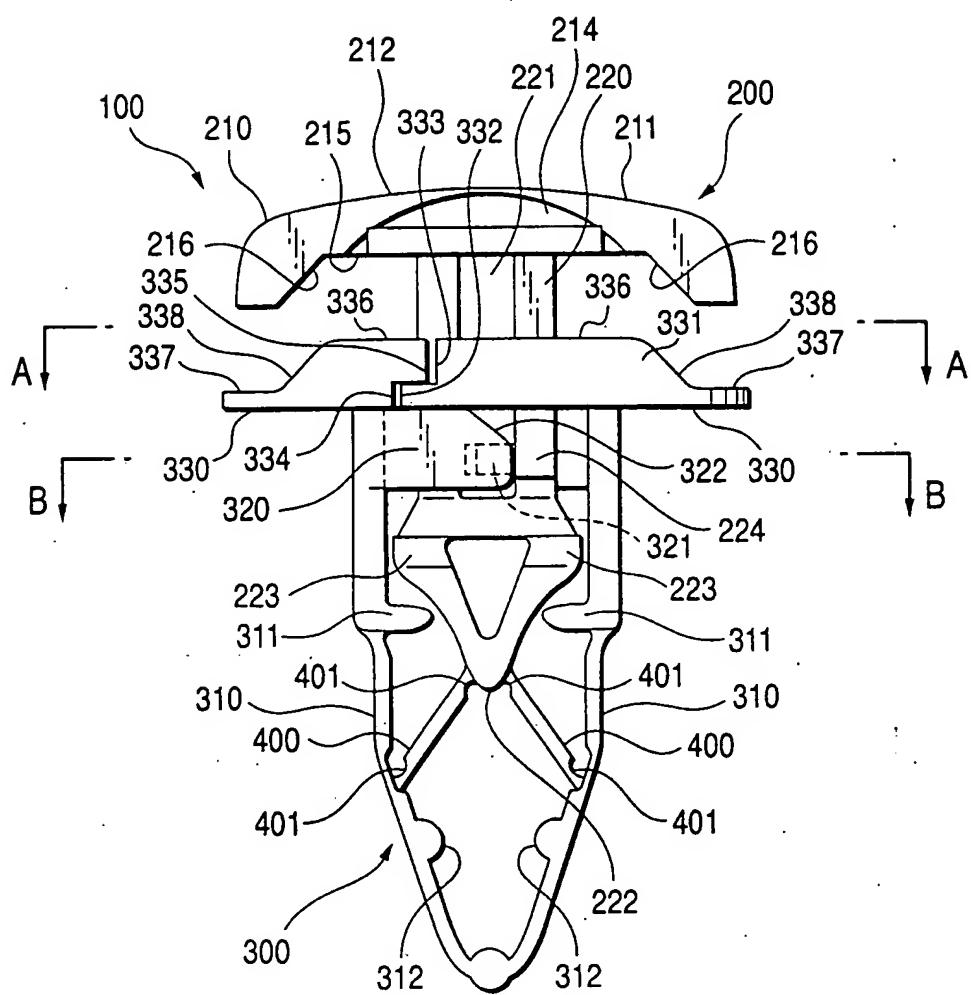
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FIG. 1



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FIG. 2



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FIG. 3

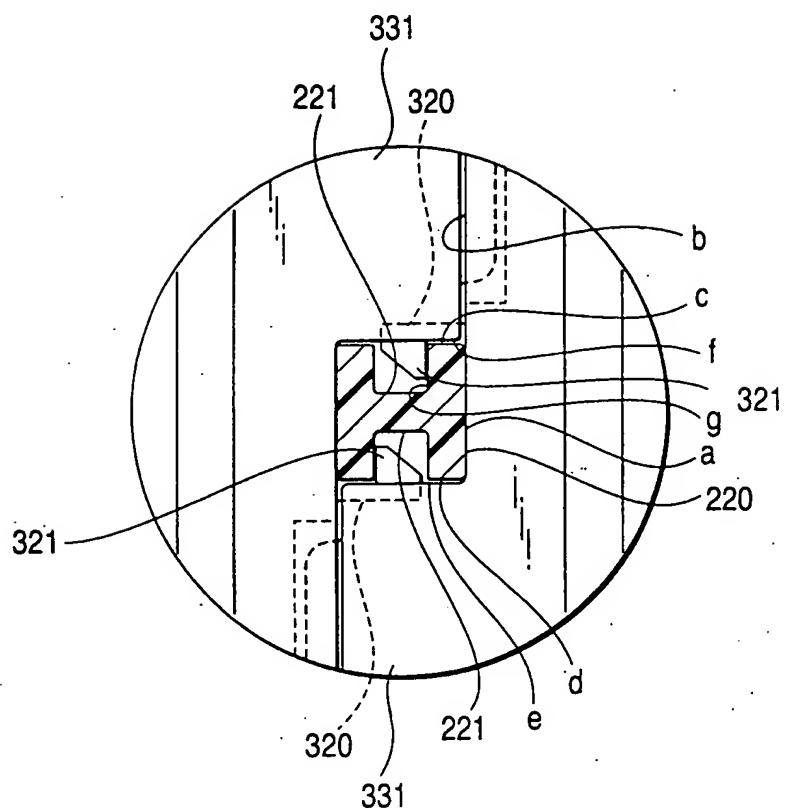
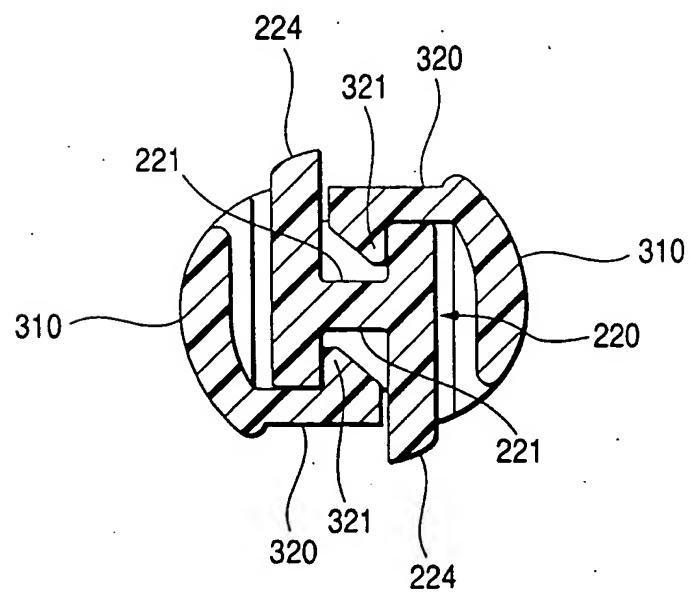


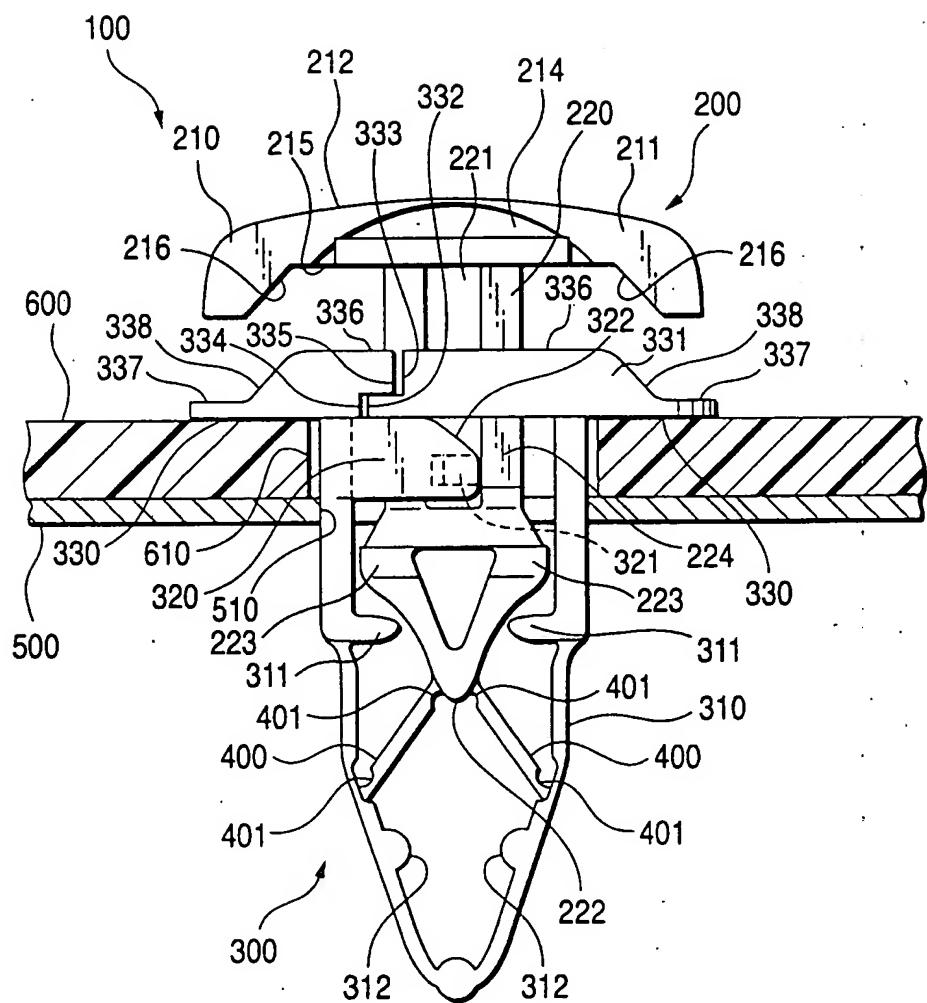
FIG. 4



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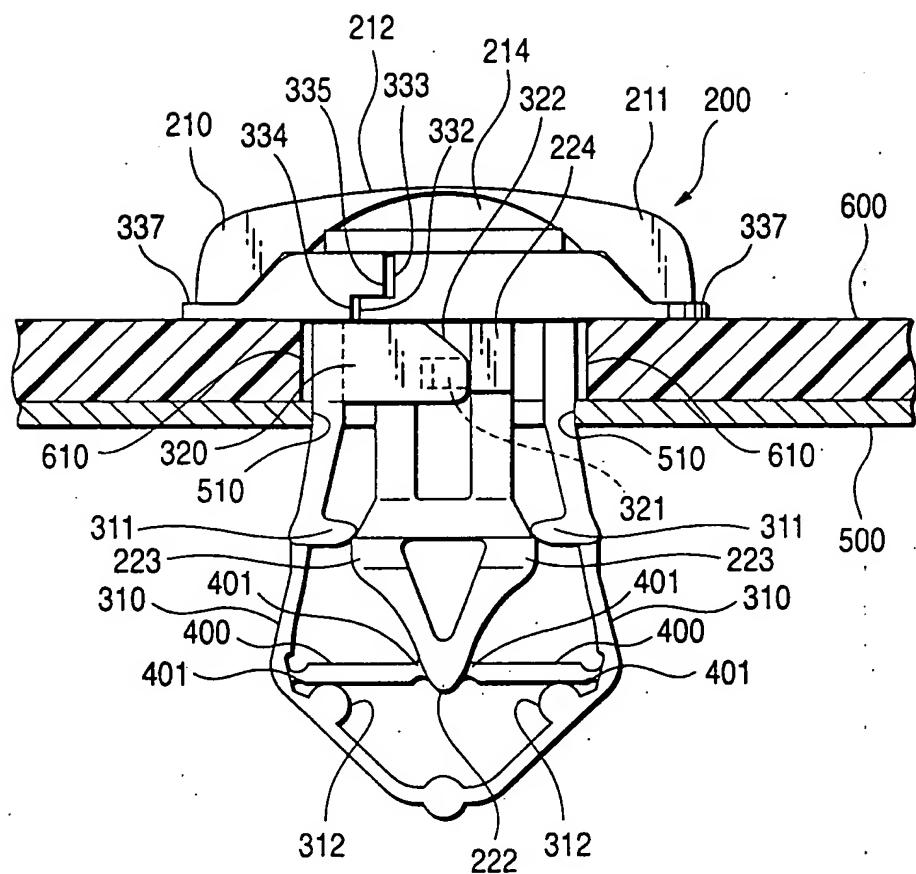
FIG. 5



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**FIG. 6**



**FIG. 7**

